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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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COUNTRY Latvia

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Pharmacy practices in the Latvian Army.

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a. Table of organization - the director of the Department of Pharmacy served under the surgeon general who was an MD who in turn was directly answerable to the Minister of War.

b. Military pharmacy schools - the director of the Department of Pharmacy was a graduate of the University of Latvia, Faculty of Pharmacy. There were no special schools for Army pharmacists. They had to attend courses in military pharmacy comprising tactics and transport in war time, conservation and storage of drugs, and examination and evaluation of their quality.

c. Pharmaceutical supply - the drug depot for the Latvian Army was located on the corner of Mitas iela and Citadeles iela, and it was used only by the Army. The supply of drugs for civilian use was provided by private agencies. In case of catastrophe or other emergency, the Army drug supplies were at least in part put at the disposal of the civilian authorities. The Army drug depot maintained supplies for perhaps a year or so of normal use. For emergency purposes, such as war, special reserves of drugs, hospital equipment and medical instruments, were also maintained at the depot. It is difficult to guess actual amounts of drugs and equipment stored at the depot.

2. University of Latvia in Riga.

a. The faculties of pharmacy and chemistry were combined as parallel departments. The following subjects were offered for pharmacists:

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1. Organic Chemistry and Laboratory - Professor Vanags, did not leave the country.
2. Inorganic Chemistry and Laboratory - Professor Kesans, stayed in Riga.
3. Physical Chemistry and Laboratory - Professor Krustinsons, stayed in Riga.
4. Colloidal Chemistry and Laboratory - Professor Janeks,
[redacted]
5. Pharmaceutical Chemistry - Professor Ed Zarins, died in Germany.
6. Chemistry of Foods and Beverages and Laboratory - Professor Ed Zarins. His assistant, Ikma Robezniece
[redacted]
7. Forensic Chemistry and Laboratory; Clinical Analyses and Laboratory; Preparation of Pharmaceuticals, with Exercises - Professor Rumment, died in Latvia.
8. Chemical Technology - Prof J Auskaps, deported by Communists.
9. Pharmacology and Practice - Professor Ed Svirlovskis, died in 1942.
10. Analysis of Drugs and Laboratory - Professor Janis Maizite, now in Riga [redacted] His assistant, Milda Dumins, now in Riga.
11. Minerology and Crystallography and Geology - Professor Boris Popoff.
12. Zoology - Professor L Abolins [redacted] 50X1
13. Physics - Professor F Gulbis, [redacted]
14. Botany - Professor Malta, deceased.
15. Pharmacology - Professor Rencis [redacted] 50X1
16. Hygiene - professor not known.
17. Microbiology - Professor E Darzins [redacted] 50X1
18. Mathematics - Professor Meijers.

b. The various departments of the University of Latvia were located as follows:

1. Main Building - Rainis Boulevard 19.
2. Chemistry and Natural Sciences, Kronvalda Boulevard 2.
3. First Municipal Hospital with University departments - Bruninieku iela 5.
4. Institute for Zoology - Alberta iela 9.
5. Institute for Anatomy and Physiology - Kronvalda Boulevard.

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6. Institute for Dentistry - Stabu iela 15.

7. Serum Institute - Kleistu Muiza.

50X1 3. [] how the Communist rule affected the pharmacies in Latvia. The Via Dolorosa of Latvian pharmacists began on 30 Oct 40 when all of the drugstores were declared nationalized. 50X1

50X1 The expropriation of all of the pharmacies was accomplished on the same day and hour throughout Latvia. There appeared at each drugstore a member of the Communist military and one or more members of the Communist Youth Group in Latvia, and ordered each drugstore to be closed for all customers. All cash on hand had to be handed over to them and immediate inventory had to be taken. This procedure was intended to prevent the hiding of expensive drugs by the owners of the drugstores. No one was allowed to leave the drugstore without being accompanied by one of the military. In this way all of the drugstores were declared "the property of the nation", and the trustee of each drugstore was the member of the Communist Youth Group, a young boy usually 16 or 17 years of age. The inventory had to be taken during the following night and only after everyone was exhausted sometime past midnight, [] stop to rest. The Communist 50X1 youth stayed at the drugstore as a night watchman. When the inventory was completed all of the drugstore owners were forced to leave their stores. Some secured jobs in other drugstores as pharmacists, salesmen, or even janitors, depending on how they were evaluated politically by the Communists. In this way the personnel of each drugstore was shuffled in such a manner that no former employer was associated with his former employees. New faces were seen in all of the drugstores and most of these were Communist spies whose sole job was to watch all other members and to denounce any anti-Communist activities.

4. All supplies of drugs which were in abundance in a particular store were collected and sent to the USSR as a "present to the friendly Soviet Republics". As compensation for these wholesale collections the Latvian drugstores were given "C vitamin tablets" which were made out of the sprouts of fir trees, gathered in the spring, dried, minced and pressed into tablet form. They weighed five grams each, were large in size and poorly wrapped. They were regarded throughout Latvia as a symbol of our poverty and primitiveness.

5. The new heads of the drugstores paid special attention to alkaloids 50X1 and glycosides, like scopolamine and solanine. The wholesale agencies were ordered to buy as much of these drugs abroad as they could possibly get. []

50X1 [] the compounds were used by the political police for the purpose of extracting confessions from their victims.

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